

Subsidized Housing Inventory. Loan documents were drafted and approved by town counsel. In late 2010 SMAHT began negotiations with the developers of the proposed Plantation II and Pilot Grove II affordable housing expansions to lend certain pre-development costs. Both developments are integral parts of the HPP. Those negotiations will continue into 2011.

As of December 31, 2010, there was \$206,121.51 in the Trust Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jacobs, Chair
Michael Kopczynski, Vice Chair
Quince Papanastassiou

Trish Settles
Cynthia Perkins
James Salvie, Selectman

OUR HERITAGE

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

A complete inventory of all artifacts in the historical museum in Randall Library and in the Town Vault was compiled by Liz Moseley, curator. She researched early Town Reports and 50 years of minutes of the Stow Historical Society to bring this information up to date. Based on this research, work continues on the reorganization of the museum and creating identification tags for the artifacts.

In conjunction with this project, Ralph Fuller created the cover pages entitled “Treasures of Stow’s Attic” for the 2009 Town Report. The artifacts are all part of Stow’s history, reflecting the people who lived here, the way of life in times past and the town’s growth through more than 300 years. Townspeople are urged to donate items of Stow history to the town’s collection by calling Liz Moseley at 978-897-4930.

For the second year all third grades from Center School visited the Town Hall in June for a History Day. A pictorial history of Stow was followed by a hands-on show of historical items from the Randall Library Museum and personal collections of committee members.

The Ancient Documents Committee and the Historical Society sponsored a guided walk of Upper Village for Springfest in May. Ralph Fuller was the guide for the tour, which ended with a Victorian tea at the former manse of the Union Church, home of one of the committee members.

Requests were received for genealogical information for Ephraim Robbins, Samuel Gates I, II and III; William Henry Parker and the Randall family.

Bob MacDonald volunteered to computerize a large collection of deeds from the vault, and the committee welcomed Dorothy Spaulding as a new member. She is interested in continuing organization of old cemetery records.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sipler, Chair
Karen Gray
Lew Halprin
Bob Walrath
Linda Hathaway, Town Clerk

Bill Byron, Associate
Ralph Fuller, Associate
Liz Moseley, Associate
Dorothy Spaulding, Associate
Dorothy MacDonald, Genealogist

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Stow's Historical Commission is responsible for the preservation and protection of Stow's historical and archaeological resources. As part of our task of documentation and research this year we are overseeing a town-wide historical inventory.

Historical Inventory: The Historical Commission has entered into a contract with Public Archaeology Survey Team to do a town-wide historical inventory. Phase I is nearly complete.

Blacksmith Shop: The Peter Larsen Blacksmith Shop has been moved to Shelburne Farm on West Acton Road to be preserved by the Painter family.

Stone Building/Apple Barn: Despite our best efforts, it appears that this building will be demolished to expand the parking lot at the new Center School.

Stow Musket: We have been unable to find a suitable secure location to display this important piece of Stow's history. Perhaps it is time for a museum.

Lower Village Cemetery: Community Preservation Funds were used to rebuild another section of the stone wall along Great Road. We are very pleased with this project.

West School: This year the West School Museum summer event series went under new leadership, with the triumvirate of Ralph Fuller and Linda Stokes of the Historical Society, and Karen Gray as liaison from the Historical Commission, arranging the programs. The four events held were all quite successful, beginning with a very enjoyable evening with Jan Turnquist interpreting Louisa May Alcott to a nearly full house.

The second program was a particularly delightful one for children. Under the leadership of Linda Stokes, members of the Stow Minutemen and friends demonstrated crafts of the Colonial era. There were many opportunities for young visitors to actually participate in the activities. The spinners of Stow group also demonstrated spinning and weaving.

The highest attendance of the year was the Art and Photography show organized by Ralph Fuller in August. Awards were given by vote of those attending.

The September program was the "Dame School". This was a variation on the theme of past years of hosting a "back to school" Victorian era program. Once again this was a very participatory program for youngsters.